

Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 ACDA-07 /084 W

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P 051155Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 3443

INFO USUN NEW YORK 103

AMEMBASSY SEOUL KOREA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, UNGA, KS, BA, US

SUBJECT : KOREA IN UNGA: COSPONSORSHIP OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION

REF : STATE 217373

1. CHARGE CALLED ON SENIOR SUBSTANTIVE OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAHMOOD BAHLOOL (DIRECTOR, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT, MFA), ON SEPT. 2. LISTENING CAREFULLY TO OUR REQUEST THAT BAHRAIN CONSIDER CO-SPONSORING THE "FRIENDLY" RESOLUTION, BAHLOOL WAS ENTIRELY NONCOMMITTAL. HE SAID IT WAS A QUESTION ON WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE. BAHLOOL TOOK A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION (STATE 212753) AND SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN CAIRO SEPT. 4. BAHLOOL EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN BAHRAIN BY SEPT. 9 AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD INFORM EMBASSY OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION.

2. COMMENT: WE WOULD FRANKLY BE SURPRISED IF BAHRAIN AGREED TO COSPONSOR THE RESOLUTION, GIVEN ITS RECENT HISTORY AT UNGA OF ABSTAINING ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. HOWEVER, THIS SEEMS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO

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URGE THE SOUTH KOREANS, WHO OPENED AN EMBASSY IN MANAMA IN AUGUST,

TO TAKE UP THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPEATED SUGGESTION THAT SEOUL DO MORE OF ITS OWN LOBBYING ON ITS OWN BEHALF. BAHRAIN APPEARS WELL-DISPOSED TO THE SOUTH KOREAN PRESENCE, IS PREPARED TO DIS-SOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE MOST HEAVY-HANDED TYPE OF NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA (THUS BAHRAIN'S "RESERVATIONS" AT NAC ON KOREA, SEE MANAMA 1226), AND JUST MIGHT BE PREPARED TO BE PERSUADED TO AGREE TO CO-SPONSOR (ESPECIALLY IF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND OTHERS IN THE REGION SO DECIDE). WE OF COURSE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN, BUT WE HAVE A HUNCH THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS MIGHT JUST BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN WE IN CONVINCING THE BAHRAINIS TO ALIGN THEMSELVES ON THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE.

BURLEIGH

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